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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6994  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHDX/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

S E C R E T MOSCOW 000391

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/31/2017  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [AM](#) [AJ](#) [RS](#)  
SUBJECT: APPROACHING RUSSIA ABOUT SUSPECTED AIR DEFENSE SITE

REF: STATE 10749

Classified By: PolMilCouns Alice G. Wells. Reason: 1.4 (b, d)

11. (S/NF) PolMinCouns made reftel demarche January 31 to Andrey Kelin, Director of the MFA Fourth CIS Directorate. Kelin denied knowledge of the issue, but said he would look into it. He added as a barb that both Azerbaijan and Armenia are concerned about the potential for U.S. air strikes against Iran and about the Iranian response, and believed both sides are seeking air defenses against that possibility. PolMinCouns remarked that Stepanakert is a funny place to put an air defense for that purpose.  
BURNS